**Cultural Ties between India-China**

301. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks were held recently bet ween India and China to improve cultural ties between the two countries; and

(b) re so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) A delegation led by the Secretary, Department of Culture, visited China from the 22nd to the 29th May, 1988. The first ever Cultural Agreement between India and China was signed during the visit. Bi lateral cultural exchanges for 1988-89 were also negotiated.

**Judicial officers in the country**

302. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commisison in its recent report recommended for increasing the strength of judicial officers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what decision Government have taken on these recommendations so far;

(d) what is the present strength of judicial officials in the country; and

(e) whether there has been any increase in the past in the strength of judical officers, if so, when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. The Law Commission in its 120th Report on 'Manpower Planning in judiciary. A Blueprint had recommended increasing! the strength of judicial officers in the country. This Report was laid on the Table of the House hi the last session.

(b) A Statement containing gist of observations and the recommendation with regard to increasing the strength of judicial officers in the country made by the Law Commission in the aforesaid Report is annexed herewith. *(See below).*

(c) The Report of the Law Commission has been sent to the State Governments/ Union territory Administrations for their views,

(d) As per the information available, the sanctioned strength of judicial offi cers in the country is as under:

Supreme Court : 26 as on 1.7.88.

High Courts : 444 as on 1.7.88

District and
Subordinate courts: 8801 as on 1.1.85

(e) The sanctioned strength of Supreme Court was increased from 18 to 26 (includ ing CJI) with effect from 9.5.1986. The sanctioned strength of High Courts was increased from 431 as on 1.7.1986 to 441 as on 1.7.1987 and to 444 as on 1.7.1988.

Statement

*Gist of observations and the recommendation with regard to increasing the stregnth of judicial owners in the country made in the* 120?/? *Report of the Law Commission on 'Manpower Planning in Judiciary: A Blueprint'*

The Commission has observed that the strength of Judicial Officers in India *is* far less as compared to certain other countries. In India, the strength of Judges is 10.5 per million population, whereas in Australia it was 41.6 Judges per million population in 1975. in Canada it was 75.2 Judges per million population in 1973; in England it was 50.9 Judges per million population in 1973 and in the Union States it was 107 Judges per million population in 1981.

The Commission has recommended that the present strength of 10.5 judges per million population be increased to 50 Judges per million population. On account of